



3. The Plan for Poplar Point

A. A Plan Overview

Poplar Point occupies a prime and visible location on the Anacostia Waterfront at the confluence of a major gateway into the District. By virtue of its location, its history, its relationship with surrounding destinations, and its potential as a great public resource, Poplar Point should play a key role the life of the region, the District, and the Anacostia neighborhoods.

Recognizing the magnificent potential of the site, the plan for Poplar Point envisions a great waterfront park supported by a mix of uses, cultural destinations, environmental initiatives, community-serving amenities, and the highest standards of urban design and landscape architecture.

To fulfill its primary role as a great park and to become part of the District's fabric serving the needs of community and District residents, Poplar Point must consider and incorporate a range of diverse objectives. Poplar Point will accommodate park programs for a variety of users including children, youth, and seniors, propose a range of transportation and infrastructure improvements, encourage economic and community development, ensure compatibility and integration with ongoing plans and private development, and be a model of sustainability and environmental stewardship.



Figures 27, 28: Top: A birds-eye view of Poplar Point showing the Park framed by the new crescent-shaped Anacostia Drive
Bottom: An amphitheater for public gathering at the Park



Elements of the Plan

- Site remediation, wetlands restoration, and daylighting of Stickfoot Creek.
- Multi-modal transportation improvements including better community access to a range of transit such as Metro, water taxi, circulators, shuttles, trails, and bike paths.
- Redesign of Anacostia Drive as a crescent –shaped boulevard defining the park edge.
- Anacostia Riverwalk and Trail and rehabilitation of the shoreline.
- Local street improvements to enhance links to Historic Anacostia and provide better community access into the Park, such as improvements to Howard Road, Good Hope Road, and the possible extension of W Street.
- Cultural and community-related uses near the Metro parking garage to mitigate its massive scale and provide a public edge to the Park. Sites for museums, memorials, and gardens within the Park
- Guidelines for responsible and compatible mixed-use development on the privately held land along Howard Road. The Plan also envisions a mix of uses on land recovered from moving the Frederick Douglass Bridge, extending the Howard Road community to the water’s edge.
- Connections to ongoing initiatives along MLK Ave and in Historic Anacostia especially to the sGateway site development, the potential joint development opportunity site at Howard and MLK, and destinations such as the Anacostia Museum and the Frederick Douglass House.
- Highway improvements designed to reduce traffic along MLK and on the bridges. This will include a redesigned Frederick Douglass Bridge and possible South Capitol Tunnel, and reconfigured 11th Street Bridges with a focus on improving local access and pedestrian amenity.s



Figure 29: The Plan for Poplar Point